

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 NSC-10 DRC-01 /071 W

----- 068120

R 231856Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 584

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 168

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT UK (NI)

SUBJECT: NORTHERN IRELAND REACTION TO FORMATION OF EXECUTIVE-
DESIGNATE

SUMMARY. REPRESENTATIVES OF PARTIES INVOLVED IN NEW NORTHERN IRELAND EXECUTIVE-DESIGNATE WERE QUITE HAPPY ABOUT THE ANNOUNCEMENT WHILE WARNING AGAINST EUPHORIA AND NOTING THAT CERTAIN IMPORTANT MATTERS HAVE NOT YET BEEN RESOLVED. LOCAL PRESS WAS FAVOURABLE. LOYALISTS WERE CRITICAL IN VARYING DEGREES BUT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO SAY WHAT PRACTICAL RESPONSE THEY WOULD MAKE. NORTHERN IRELAND CIVIL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION WAS DISSATISFIED. BOTH WINGS OF IRA DENOUNCED SDLP "COLLABORATION" WITH BRITISH. END SUMMARY.

1. UNIONIST LEADER (AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE-DESIGNATE) BRIAN FAULKNER ON ULSTER TV EVENING NOVEMBER 22 SAID THE THREE PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE EXECUTIVE HAD PROBABLY LAUNCHED A GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD BE STRONGER AND HAVE BROADER SUPPORT THAN ANY PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT OF NORTHERN IRELAND AND WHICH ALSO HAD GAINED MORE GOODWILL IN THE UK FOR NORTHERN IRELAND THAN ANYTHING IN LAST 20 YEARS. HE AGREED THAT NOT ALL HIS FOUR CONDITIONS FOR ENTERING AN EXECUTIVE HAD YET BEEN MET BUT HE THOUGHT THEY WOULD BE AFTER TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE. HE AND GERRY FITT WOULD MAKE A FORMIDABLE TEAM AND THE EXECUTIVE
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COULD WORK TOWARD NOT ONLY PEACE BUT ALSO PROGRESS THROUGH THE AGREED SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRAM.

2. SDLP LEADER AND DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE-DESIGNATE GERRY FITT

ON SAME PROGRAM AGREED WITH INTERVIEWER THAT OBTAINING AGREEMENT AMONG THREE PARTIES ON 6-4-1 EXECUTIVE WITHIN 7-6-2 ADMINISTRATION WAS INDEED "VIRTUOSO PERFORMANCE" BY WHITELAW. HE SAID UNIONIST MAJORITY ON EXECUTIVE WAS NOT IMPORTANT BECAUSE IN COALITION EXECUTIVE THERE WOULD BE AGREEMENT BY CONSENSUS AND COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY. HE HAD NEVER THOUGHT HE WOULD LIVE TO SEE THE DAY WHEN 379 PLEDGED UNIONISTS WOULD SUPPORT A MOTION BY BRIAN FAULKNER IN FAVOUR OF POWER-SHARING WITH THE MINORITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND. VIOLENCE COMMITTED FROM AND AGAINST BOTH COMMUNITIES HAD LED TO THIS DEVELOPMENT. LIKE FAULKNER, FITT EMPHASIZED THAT FINAL AGREEMENT ON SDLP'S PRECONDITIONS HAD NOT YET BEEN OBTAINED AND MUST PRECEDE ACTUAL FORMATION OF EXECUTIVE. HE DISMISSED CRITICAL REACTION OF PROVISIONAL IRA AND BLASTED WESTMINSTER MPS MCALISKEY AND MCMANUS AND MCMASTER KILFEDEER AND ORR FOR DESTRUCTIVE COMMENTS IN PARLIAMENT. SDLP DEPUTY LEADER (AND HEAD-DESIGNATE OF DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE) JOHN HUME SAID AGREEMENT TO FORM EXECUTIVE INVOLVED PARTNERSHIP AMONG PROTESTANTS CATHOLICS AND DISSENTERS FOR FIRST TIME ANYWHERE IN IRELAND. REAL VICTORS WERE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

3. ALLIANCE PARTY LEADER (AND HEAD-DESIGNATE OF LAW REFORM) OLIVER NAPIER DECLARED HE WAS SATISFIED WITH AGREEMENT ON ALLOCATION OF SEATS. THERE WAS A LONG DISTANCE YET TO GO BUT PARTIES HAD ALREADY TRAVELLED A LONG WAY AND WHAT HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED WAS "FANTASTIC." NAPIER LATER ANNOUNCED THAT ALLIANCE DEPUTY LEADER BOB COOPER WOULD HEAD OFFICE OF MANPOWER WHILE ASSEMBLYMAN BASIL GLASS WOULD BE ASSISTANT CHIEF WHIP, BOTH NO-EXECUTIVE-LEVEL POSITIONS.

4. FORMATION OF EXECUTIVE-DESIGNATE WAS WELCOMED BY CARDINAL CONWAY, IRISH CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICER BILLY BLEASE AND NORTHERN IRELAND LABOUR PARTY ASSEMBLYMAN DAVID BLEAKLEY.

5. LOCAL PRESS REACTION WAS GENERALLY FAVOURABLE. (INDEPENDENT)
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BELFAST TELEGRAPH WELCOMED IT AND BLASTED ITS OPPONENTS AS "WRECKING CREW." (CATHOLIC) IRISH NEWS DESCRIBED FORMATION OF EXECUTIVE-DESIGNATE AS INDICATING CHANGE IN POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE AND GENUINE DESIRE TO MAKE EXECUTIVE WORK. BOTH UNIONISTS AND SDLP WOULD HAVE TO RIDE OUT CRITICAL COMMENTS FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE EXTREMISTS. EVERYONE SHOULD LOWER THEIR VOICES AND AWAIT OUTCOME OF TRIPARTITE TALKS. LEADER IN NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY MEMBER OF UNIONIST PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WHO HAS BEEN WAFFLING FOR SEVERAL MONTHS ABOUT POWER-SHARING WITH SDBP SAID PEOPLE IN NORTHERN IRELAND DESPERATE FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY WILL GIVE EXECUTIVE A CHANCE EVEN THOUGH IT WAS BORN OUT OF TERRORIST CAMPAIGN AND LACKS CONSENSUS OF SUPPORT FROM MAJORITY OF POPULATION. NEWS LETTER ACCEPTED

THAT UNIONIST MAJORITY IN EXECUTIVE AND REQUIREMENT FOR UNANIMITY IN COUNCIL OF IRELAND PROTECTED UNIONIST POSITION IN UPCOMING TRIPARTITE TALKS.

6. LOYALISTS WERE PREDICTABLY UNHAPPY ABOUT FORMATION OF EXECUTIVE-DESIGNATE. VANGUARD LEADER CRAIG DENOUNCED IT AND SAID FAULKNER WAS "ON HIS OWN" WHILE VANGUARD DEPUTY LEADER ERNEST BAIRD SAID IT WAS A BLACK DAY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND WHEN FAULKNER TURNED FROM BRITAIN TOWARD THE IRISH REPUBLIC AND "THE ENEMIES OF ULSTER" GOT INTO POSITIONS OF AUTHORITY THE IRA AND SDLP HAD WON A GREAT VICTORY. UNPLEDGED UNIONIST ASSEMBLYMAN JOHN LAIRD STILL DOUBTED THAT EXECUTIVE COULD BE ESTABLISHED OR LONG SURVIVE GIVEN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ITS UNIONIST AND REPUBLICAN MEMBERS AND ISSUES WHICH ARE NOT YET SETTLED. LAIRD'S COLLEAGUE JOHN TAYLOR SAID IT WAS STEP AWAY FROM UK AND INTO UNITED IRELAND AND PROMISED THAT UNPLEDGED UNIONISTS WOULD MEET NOVEMBER 23 TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO NEXT. PERHAPS THEY WOULD CALL A FURTHER MEETING OF UNIONIST COUNCIL TO REVERSE NOVEMBER 20 MAJORITY FOR POWER-SHARING. OTHER UNPLEDGED UNIONISTS EXCORIATED FAULKNER. IN ABSENCE OF DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST PARTY LEADER IAN PAISLEY IN U.S. DEPUTY LEADER REV BEATTIE DEPLORED POSSIBILITY OF THE FIRST SQUATTER AUSTIN CURRIE AS HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND OF EX-IRA MAN AND EX-INTERNEE PADDY DEVLIN THE RENT-RATE STRIKER AS HEAD OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES. HE SAID FAULKNER WOULD BE IN MINORITY AT TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE.

7. REACHED BY TELEPHONE AT BOB JONES UNIVERSITY IN THE US, REV UNCLASSIFIED

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PAISLEY TOLD A NEWSPAPER HE WOULD FORM A NEW LOYALIST POLITICAL PARTY TO OPPOSE EXECUTIVE AND CONSTITUTION ACT IN ASSEMBLY BY CONSTITUTIONAL MEANS. A VANGUARD PRESS OFFICER SAID SUCH A NEW PARTY WAS A "STRONG POSSIBILITY WHICH HAS BEEN DISCUSSED BUT UNPLEDGED UNIONIST WHIP CAPT ARGILL SAID THERE MAY BE SIMPLY MORE UNIFIED FORMULATION OF LOYALIST POLICY AND OTHER UNPLEDGED UNIONISTS HAVE RECENTLY REITERATED DETERMINATION TO STAY WITHIN UNIONIST PARTY IN HOPES OF TURNING IT AWAY FROM POWER-SHARING. NOTHING HAS BEEN HEARD FROM PROSCRIBED ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE WHICH HAS BEEN OBSERVING CHRISTMAS TRUCE SINCE NOVEMBER 18 BUT HAD PROMISED TO BREAK TRUCE IF MOVES TOWARD COUNCIL OF IRELAND WERE MADE.

8. NORTHERN IRELAND CIVIL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION COMPLAINED THAT SETTLEMENT OUTLINED BY WHITELAW DID NOT ADVANCE DEMOCRACY OR CIVIL RIGHTS IN NORTH BECAUSE INTERNMENT, EMERGENCY PROVISIONS AND RUC AND ARMY REMAIN. NICRA SAID IT WOULD CONTINUE A STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY SUPPORTED NO DOUBT BY ALL THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND REGARDLESS OF RELIGION, CLASS OR ULTIMATE NATIONAL LOYALTY.

9. BOTH BRANCHES OF IRA EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH THEIR

POLITICAL WINGS BRANDED SDLP'S PARTICIPATION IN EXECUTIVE-
DESIGNATE AS TREACHEROUS AND COLLABORATION WITH ENEMY. PROVOS
PROMISED TO WRECK IT BY VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN.
PENBERTHY

UNCLASSIFIED

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, PRESS COMMENTS, THE PRESS, POLITICAL PARTIES, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, EXECUTIVE BRANCH
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BELFAS00168
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731166/abqceedb.tel
Line Count: 169
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Aug-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <17-Aug-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <24-Oct-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORTHERN IRELAND REACTION TO FORMATION OF EXECUTIVE- DESIGNATE
TAGS: PINT, UK, IRA, SDLP, (FAULKNER, BRIAN), (FITT, GERRY)
To: STATE INFO LONDON
DUBLIN
USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005